

FAQ for new Physics Ph.D. requirements proposal.

Q: If students just need to pass 4 classes among the list of core courses will there be any control over the quality of teaching of these courses?

A: I would suggest a graduate Core Course Curriculum committee (CCC or CCCC). That committee would in some sense, to replace the prelim committee and be charged with ensuring an adequately consistent curriculum for these courses.

Q: Will the content of the classes and exams regulated in any way (as e.g. now the finals for core classes are not normal finals and graded differently)?

A: See previous response

Q: How will student appeals be handled?

A: Through the Graduate Affairs committee

Q: What will be a mechanism to add or remove a class from the "core course" and "advance course" lists?

A: Course reviews for inclusion can be handled by either the graduate affairs committee or the graduate core course curriculum committee described above.

Q: Will EM2 and QM3 be removed from required course list?

A: These courses now become optional.

Q: Any new practices compared to current ones need to be specified. Will the new general exam rules be applied to students who are current grad students, but have not passed all prelims yet or students who were admitted last year, but deferred until the upcoming Fall?

A: There will have to be a phase-in period, as is usual for any change in rules/procedures. Students are nominally subject to the rules in existence when they first enroll in the program, but we have typically allowed students to opt into new rules.